

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance with the figures.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein-- and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 3-

8 for certain informalities. In response, claims 1 and 3-8 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner, as well as other informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 3-8 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,670,779 (Shen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,388,561 (Koshimura). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15 are patentable over Shen and Koshimura for at least the following reasons.

Shen is directed to an electronic converter that converts a low frequency input to DC power. As correctly noted by the Examiner, Shen does not teach or suggest a second converter for converting the a.c. voltage into a second d.c. voltage. Koshimura is cited in an attempt to remedy this deficiency in Shen.

Koshimura is directed to an apparatus for operating discharge lamps that includes a rectifier for rectifying a low frequency AC voltage to obtain a pulsating voltage, and an inverter for inverting the pulsating voltage to a high frequency voltage and means for operating a discharge lamp according to the output of the inverter.

The Koshimura apparatus further includes an auxiliary power source for generating an auxiliary voltage and a switch circuit for adding the auxiliary voltage to the pulsating voltage to have a resultant voltage only while the pulsating voltage is lower than the auxiliary voltage.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 13, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

a second converter for converting the a.c. voltage into a second d.c. voltage and providing said second d.c. voltage as a second output of said circuit to a controller of said first converter for controlling said first converter.

A second converter that converts a voltage to a second DC voltage and provides the second DC voltage as a second output of the circuit to a controller of the first converter, for controlling the first converter, is nowhere taught or suggested in Shen, Koshimura, and combination thereof, as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Rather, Koshimura merely teaches to add an auxiliary voltage (from an auxiliary power source) to the pulsating voltage provided from a rectifier to form a resultant voltage to

power a discharge lamp, only while the pulsating voltage is lower than the auxiliary voltage. There is simply no apparent reason in the prior art for one skilled in the art to suggest having a second converter for converting a first voltage into a second voltage for output and control of a first converter.

Thus, even if "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the converter circuit of Koshimura et al. in Shen, for the purpose of creating multiple DC voltage levels for use in other system components such as the controller in figure 3 of shen," as noted on page 4 of the Office Action, third full paragraph, there is still no teaching or suggestion in Shen, Koshimura, and combinations thereof, of a second converter that converts a first voltage to a second voltage and provides the second DC voltage as a second output of the circuit to a controller of the first converter, for controlling the first converter, as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

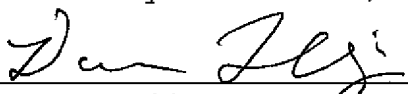
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-12 and 14-15 should also be allowed at least based on

its dependence from independent claims 1 and 13.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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